

Press Release

Maine State Planning Office

RECYCLABLES ARE NOT TRASH

Date: October 7, 2005

CONTACT:

Name: Bruce White

Phone number: 207-287-8053

E-mail: Bruce.White@maine.gov

On Friday February 25, 2005, a fast moving fire leveled the Dover-Foxcroft recycling center, located at the town's transfer station. However, the fire did not end the community's successful recycling program. Dover-Foxcroft quickly worked out an agreement with another recycling center to accept and process the town's recyclables and the residents and businesses continued separating out their recyclables from their trash. The community is now rebuilding their recycling facility and their commitment clearly underscores their support of the value of recycling.

But Dover-Foxcroft is not alone. Most communities offer a recycling program for their residents and many programs accept recyclables from businesses. In 2003, over 700,000 tons of paper, metal, glass, plastic and other materials were kept out of the waste stream and recycled - - that's over a third of the total solid waste that was generated. Those recyclables were then purchased by manufacturers who used them in the making of new products and items. Recycling not only conserves resources and energy, but reduces the demand placed upon landfill space for disposal of waste.

There's room for improvement, though. The demand for recyclables by manufacturers is strong but the supply is not sufficient - - domestic and foreign manufacturers have the ability to use more recycled goods in their processes. To assist in promoting the value of recycling in your community, we encourage you to participate in Maine Recycles Week 2005. From November 8th to the 15th, there will be a statewide campaign involving municipalities, schools and businesses to not only recycle more, but to buy products with recycled content. For more information, visit the Maine Recycles Week website at www.recyclemaine.com



Maine State Planning Office
Executive Department
38 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333
(207) 287-3461

www.maine.gov/spo